



VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Improving Multidisciplinary Responses

[Speaker – David Stewart]

My name is David and I am a Gureng Gureng Man from the Bundaberg, Gladstone Region up in Central Coast Queensland.

[Speaker – Tahlia-Rose Vanissum]

And my name is Tahlia-Rose Vanissum and I am a Woppaburra woman from the north Keppel Island, as known as Konomie off the Rockhampton coast. And we work in the Australian Department of Social Services.

Today we are talking to you from Ngunnawal country here in Canberra, but we'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We also extend this acknowledgement to all First Nations people listening today and we pay our respects to you, your cultures and your Elders past, present and emerging.

We are here today to talk to you about the Improving Multidisciplinary Responses program or IMR for short. We are so pleased to be promoting this program as it represents another landmark initiative under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap which commits government to achieving better outcomes for our people.

One of the key aims of Closing the Gap is to build genuine partnerships and shared decision making with First Nations peoples, communities and organisations. And this program has done precisely that.

The Grant Opportunities Guidelines for the IMR program has been developed in partnership with First Nations peak bodies, advisory groups and representative organisations across all jurisdictions.

This partnership has led to the development of a shared-decision making framework which outlines how First Nations peoples will share in the decision making process throughout the design, implementation and evaluation of this program.

[Speaker – David Stewart]

So what is the IMR all about?

IMR is specifically targeted at First Nations families with multiple and complex needs to prevent harm and reduce harm to children. The current service system has often been described as fragmented, difficult to navigate and does not provide a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs for our communities and families.

The IMR program will invest in community approaches to work with parents, children and young people within our communities. This program centres First Nations people's way of knowing, being and doing, to strengthen the safety and well-being for our children, and our children's connection to culture, community, land and language.

IMR has been established to centre First Nations cultural knowledge, frameworks and responses for the way services are designed and delivered to better meet the needs for First Nations children and families with multiple and complex needs. This program is designed in partnership with First Nations people for the government to support the First Nations people's self-determination and community-led initiatives. This is an opportunity to step up and make the change you want to see in your community.

IMR will fund community-led projects in regional, remote and metropolitan areas across Australia reflecting different community aspirations, operating environments and local priorities as long as it contributes to reducing the number of children in out-of-home care.

It is important to note that this program is not aimed at funding service delivery but improving or simplifying the way the service system work.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines outline the program objectives and what is in scope and out of scope for this program.

[Speaker – Tahlia-Rose Vanissum]

Some examples of potential IMR initiatives that we are looking to fund include but are not limited to:

Local issues and priorities

We could look at supporting the capacity of your organisation to be able to provide comprehensive care to a particular group of children and families, such as First Nations

children with a disability or those who live in environments affected by drug and alcohol misuse and/or mental health problems.

Service Redesign is another example

We could fund projects that are community led re-designs of processes that better support the specific needs of First Nations communities, across areas such as families with complex needs and/or families at risk of having a child protection notification.

Improving coordination and collaboration

We could look at funding projects aimed at building the capacity of your organisation to work more collaboratively with others delivering services to First Nations children and families to prevent them from falling through the cracks.

Another example is co-design with community

We could also be funding projects supporting co-design activities and resources to understand community strengths and needs, and design place-based solutions.

And finally projects supporting Early Intervention and Cultural Preservation

At the centre of implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, is better access to early intervention services delivered by First Nations organisations that provide more culturally safe care which may reduce the number of First Nations children entering out of home care.

So if you have a need to improve service delivery, build capability or plug a service gap by enhancing existing initiatives that contribute directly to the objectives of the program and do not involve direct service delivery, then we strongly encourage you to apply.

Over to you now David to run through the eligibility criteria and information on how much funding is available.

[Speaker – David Stewart]

Who is eligible to apply?

Only Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and other First Nations owned organisations, large and small, can apply for this grant.

The government is committed to building a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled sector, delivering high quality services to meet the needs for First Nations people across Australia.

Applications can be from a single entity or you can join together to form a consortia or partnership to extend the capacity of your proposal. However, the lead applicant in the consortia must be a First Nations owned organisation.

How much funding is available?

Total program funding available is up to \$44 million with grants of up to \$5 million per organisation.

It is important to note that applications for both large and small scale projects are welcome. The project could be an innovative placed based comprehensive model requiring up to the maximum \$5 million or a small focussed project seeking to build on an already successful multidisciplinary model requiring a much lesser amount.

It is really up to you and your organisation. Your application should reflect the needs of your community and the support from the local governance groups for your proposed project or proposal

How many years do we have to complete the project?

The maximum grant period is up to 4 years. Funding will be available from 2022-23 financial year, which includes the evaluation phase which is expected to commence in the final year of your project if successful.

[Speaker – Tahlia-Rose Vanissum]

Now you won't be doing your project entirely on your own. I would like to let you know about the support the department is providing to grantees.

Design and evaluation experts will be provided to assist and guide grantees to build their capacity and capability in model design, project management and report and evaluation frameworks.

This is a unique feature within the IMR and will not only include tools and resources but also provide a platform for grantees to share key lessons learnt from various models across Australia.

And let me say this support is advice only and the grantee will always have the final say in their project design. It is your project and you will have control.

Now let's get to how you can apply for this grant.

How to Apply

The Application process is online through the Community Grants Hub or the GrantConnect website. You must submit electronically. Unfortunately, we cannot accept paper based application.

Four Selection Criteria

There are essentially 4 criteria that you need to cover:

The first is describing how your project will improve holistic service delivery to First Nations communities, particularly to First Nations children and families with multiple and complex needs.

The second is describing how your proposed project will contribute to IMR objectives, which have already spoken about.

The third is describing how local/regional First Nations community and stakeholders will be involved in the co-design of the project design, implementation and evaluation phases.

The fourth is describing how your organisation and any partners will establish strong relationships with key services or organisations and your ability to work collaboratively.

Each of these criteria are weighted equally.

Your project will be assessed on how well it meets these 4 criteria, how it compares with other applications and whether your project is value for money.

The IMR Grant Opportunity Guidelines will provide more detail on the assessment criteria and the selection process. It has all the information you need to be able to write your application. I also recommend you read the Fact Sheet and the Frequently Asked Questions.

It is expected that between 9 and 12 First Nations organisations will be funded to deliver the IMR program, with at least one in each jurisdiction.

Keeping with the commitment of shared-decision making for this program, the selection process for the grants will be supported by a Selection Advisory Panel that will include 50% First Nations representation from the child and family sector.

The First Nations people involved in this process will not have any involvement in any application submitted for this grant and will be required to declare conflicts of interest, if any.

[Speaker – David Stewart]

Tahlia-Rose and I would like to end by saying this is such a great opportunity to be involved in. The IMR program has the potential to really shape the future for our local communities by improving outcomes particularly for our vulnerable families and children. We hope you have found this video useful and will apply for this grant.

All the best and thank you for your time today.